

The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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Tax Relief Workshops for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Fairfax County provides real estate and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older or are permanently and totally disabled and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. The Providence District Supervisor's office is hosting one-on-one appointments for Senior Tax Relief Workshops on **Tuesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 16** between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. To schedule a half hour appointment for a one-on-one workshop with a representative from the Department of Tax Administration, please make an appointment with our office by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. The workshop will be held at the Providence District Supervisor's office which is located at 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031 (at the rear of the Merrifield Fire Station). You may call 703-560-6946 for directions or additional information.

For eligibility requirements please refer to the Tax Relief – Frequently Asked Questions at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_fa.q.htm. For an application, call 703-222-8234 TTY: 703-222-7594; Espanol 703-324-3855, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm weekdays, email taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov or download the tax relief application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/forms.htm#Other_Forms. ■

Tax Preparation Assistance for Qualified Residents

If you worked in 2010 and earned less than \$49,000, then you may qualify for tax preparation assistance. IRS certified volunteers will ensure you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit. Sites will be open January 25 through April 15, 2011. Families throughout Northern Virginia received over \$5.5 million in federal refunds last tax season through this free service. Additional information and a list of locations providing this free service is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news/free_income_tax_prep.htm or by calling the Department of Family Services at 703-324-7500; TTY: 703-222-9452. ■

A message from Supervisor Smyth

Early this year we will focus on two issues of countywide significance. The first is the county budget for Fiscal Year 2012. With the slow economic recovery and Fairfax's dependence on real estate taxes, we anticipate a revenue shortfall of approximately \$50 million for FY 2012. This number takes into account ongoing cuts to services and programs and is premised on a third consecutive year of salary freezes for employees (both county and schools). The County Executive will present his budget recommendations for FY 2012 to the Board of Supervisors on February 22. More information on the budget process is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/.

Once again Patty Reed, our Providence District School Board representative, and I will host a public meeting to discuss the proposed budget with you. County staff will be on hand to give an overview and answer questions. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **March 2 at Luther Jackson Middle School (auditorium), 3020 Gallows Road**.

The second event that will have far reaching consequences in Fairfax is redistricting. With the results of the 2010 Census, electoral district boundaries must be redrawn to accommodate population changes. To oversee redistricting at the county level, the Board of Supervisors has set up a citizen committee and appointed Kate Hanley, former Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to preside over the group. All meetings are public and information will also be available on the county website.

Both the FY 2012 budget and redistricting will offer many opportunities for public participation and input. I look forward to working with you on these complex issues that will impact Fairfax for years to come. ■

~ **Linda Smyth**

2011 Redistricting – What it Means to You

In April 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau conducted the national decennial census in accordance with federal law. The Census Bureau is expected to release detailed population data relating to Virginia in February 2011. That information will be used for a wide range of purposes in future years, but, first and most important, the 2010 Census data will be used to reapportion representation in the United States House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local elected governing bodies. The Virginia Constitution requires the Virginia General Assembly and those local governing bodies elected by district to consider redistricting in calendar year 2011. Because of the uneven populations among the present County election districts, the Board will need to reapportion the present election districts. This will require the County to: (1) consider changes to the County election districts and precincts; (2) adopt a plan to revise the present election districts; (3) secure federal preclearance of all changes affecting voting pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; (4) notify each County voter of any changes to that voter's election district; (5) be prepared to send out absentee ballots upon request forty-five days before the primary and general elections; and (6) conduct the primary and general elections based on the new election districts.

The General Assembly probably will reschedule the 2011 primary elections now scheduled for June 14, 2011. Also, the General Assembly has not yet scheduled its own redistricting activities so given these uncertainties there is not a firm schedule of events for county redistricting at this time. Assuming that primary elections are deferred to mid-August or later, the County will need to consider the new population information and adopt a suitable plan for submission to the U.S. Attorney General for federal preclearance by the end of April 2011. In order to meet that deadline and to provide appropriate public input, the Board has established the 2011 Advisory Citizen Reapportionment Committee which is tasked with preparing redistricting alternatives for Board consideration. A public hearing on the proposed redistricting plan is currently scheduled for March 29, 2011 and Board adoption of the redistricting plan for April 26, 2011. It is anticipated that voters will be notified of election changes by County Electoral Board staff in June and July 2011. You may find additional information about the County's redistricting schedule at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/news/board_approves_redistricting_plan.htm. Regardless of changes to any of the above dates, the current general election date of November 8, 2011 will not change. ■

2011 Legislative Issues and Contact Information

The 2011 Fairfax County Legislative Agenda is available on the county's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/legislation/. The progress of specific legislation is available on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System website at <http://leg1.state.va.us/>. The most effective way to express your opinion about any legislation is through your local delegate and/or senator. You may find your specific representative(s) on the Virginia General Assembly's website at <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>).

For more information about your legislators and how to contact them, please visit the Virginia General Assembly's website at <http://legis.virginia.gov>. You may also contact the Virginia General Assembly's Constituent Viewpoint Comment line toll free at 1-800-889-0229 (804-698-1990 in Richmond). ■

Document Shredding

Date: Saturday, March 26, 2011

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth's office will again host a document shredding event on Saturday, March 26 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Oakton Library parking lot located at 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124-1785.

Residents may bring up to five boxes or bags of paper to be shredded on site. Staples in the paper are okay, but all plastic binders and metal binder clips must be removed. This shredding event is for paper documents only; no electronic files will be accepted for destruction. ■

Oakton Library Used Book Sale

10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, 22124

Phone 703-242-4020

Friends of Oakton Library hold three day
Used Book Sale

Thursday, March 24th from 1:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 25th from 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26th from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Donation of gently used books for the sale can
be dropped off at the library by March 10th ■



The Oakton High School Chapter of Best Buddies, International was selected from among 800 high school programs and 62 applicants to receive the 2009-2010 Outstanding Chapter Award from Best Buddies International. They were recognized here by the Board of Supervisors for their achievement. ▪

Celebrated Trees of Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Tree Commission is launching the Celebrated Trees of Fairfax County program. Residents are encouraged to nominate trees in four categories:

- ▶ **Big:** Tree that's one of the largest of its species.
- ▶ **Commemorative:** Tree or group of trees planted as a memorial of an event or person.
- ▶ **Historic:** Tree associated with significant event, person landmark or institution.
- ▶ **Favorite:** Any favorite tree (only one nomination per person accepted)

Additional information, nomination criteria and nomination forms can be downloaded at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trees/celebratedtrees.htm or by contacting the Urban Forest Management Division at 703-324-1770, TTY 711. ▪

Easter Egg Hunt at Nottoway

Join us on Saturday, April 23, 2011 for a morning of fun and egg hunting when the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Nottoway present the annual Egg Hunt. There will be a special appearance from the Easter bunny. The event is for children ages 1 to 9 and the fee is \$7 per child. Divided by age groups, children will for hunt for eggs and candy and win special prizes. Egg Hunts: 11 AM (1-3 yrs), 11:20 AM (4-6 yrs) and 11:40 (7-9 yrs). Please bring your own basket. This fundraiser is for Nottoway Park improvements.

Walk-in registration starts at 9:30 AM in the picnic shelter (cash only, no pre-registration): Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna, VA 22181. Directions: Beltway Exit 49 (I-66 West) to exit at Route 234 or Nutley Street north and turn left on Courthouse Road and the park entrance will be on the left. The event will be cancelled in case of rain. Call 703-324-8566 after 8:30 AM for a cancellation update.

Nottoway Habitat Restoration Project

Want to get a good workout and help restore the native habitat in the Nottoway Park woodlands at the same time? Join the group that is removing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs. Students and scouts can earn community service hours.

Workdays (9 AM-Noon): Saturdays, February 26, March 26, April 16, May 7, September 24, October 22 (rain date: October 29), November 5

Check the schedule for additional Nottoway workdays:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/IMA-calendar.html

More Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima, 703-324-8681, TTY 711 or friendsofnottoway@gmail.com. ▪

Providence Community Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm at
Luther Jackson Middle School (Auditorium),
3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth and School Board Member Patty Reed will host a community meeting on the FY 2012 Budget. Providence residents are encouraged to tell us about priorities, recommendations and ideas for dealing with the budget issues and maintaining our quality of life.

On Tuesday, February 22, 2011, the County Executive will present the FY 2012 Advertised Budget.

Budget Hearings

Tuesday, March 29, begins at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 30, begins at 3:00 pm

Thursday, March 31, begins at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, Budget Mark-up

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, Budget Adoption

Additional information regarding the FY 2012 budget process is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/. ■



The cranes, two bright yellow and blue ones and a white one, are being used to build the bridges that will carry the rail tracks along the northwest side of Route 123 and over the Capital Beltway. ■

Water Service and Rates

Fairfax County residents receive water service from five water systems: Fairfax County Water Authority ("Fairfax Water"), the City of Falls Church, the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna, and the Town of Herndon. Providence District residents may receive their water from Fairfax Water, a not-for-profit independent governmental entity created by statute, or from one of the other listed municipal water systems. The provider is shown on each water bill.

Under Virginia law, each of the five water systems is subject to a statutory obligation to charge fair and reasonable rates for the water services it provides. The Virginia Code does not prescribe a method or standard for calculating water rates. The Attorney General of Virginia has taken the position that in the absence of a statutory standard for determining charges, the fees and charges fixed by a municipal water system are subject only to the implicit requirement of reasonableness.

While Virginia's municipal water providers are accorded latitude in setting retail water rates, a municipality needs to demonstrate a plausible basis for the fees and charges it establishes. Based upon the principle that each water system providing service to Fairfax County residents should charge its customers rates that are fairly and reasonably based, the Board of Supervisors in 2008 requested that the County's Consumer Protection Commission conduct an investigation of the water rate disparities charged to the Fairfax County consumers. The full report, dated April 20, 2010, is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/cpc_water_report.pdf.

Until FY 2010, the City of Falls Church annually transferred surplus water revenues to its General Fund. It presumably ended the practice in 2010, as a result of the injunction issued by the Circuit Court of Fairfax County. The injunction was issued in early 2010 after the Court found that the City's transfers amounted to an unconstitutionally void tax on customers located outside the City's limits. Falls Church appealed this decision. In December, the Virginia Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal.

One of the largest institutional water customers is Fairfax County, which has several County facilities, including schools and libraries that are served by Falls Church water. As an extraterritorial water customer, Fairfax County is seeking a refund of its overpayments to the City, with interest, for calendar years 2007 through 2009 in a proceeding filed in the Fairfax Circuit Court. Because there is a three-year statute of limitations for erroneous tax assessments, the County filed suit before December 31, 2010, to recover its refund for calendar year 2007. If private homeowners or business owners wish to seek refunds for overpayments as a result of the Court decision, they are strongly urged to consult an attorney as soon as possible to ensure that their rights are protected. ■

Dulles Rail Construction

If you drive in Tysons Corner these days, you can't miss the giant horizontal cranes that are dominating the skyline along Route 123 between McLean and Tysons Corner Center as construction of Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project reaches the 30 percent mark. The cranes, two bright yellow and blue ones and a white one, are being used to build the bridges that will carry the rail tracks along the northwest side of Route 123 and over the Capital Beltway. Lanes of Route 123 near the Dulles Connector Road continue to be closed intermittently at night while those cranes build bridge spans above that busy road. In the coming weeks construction crews will use the white crane, to build spans across the Beltway using what is known as "balanced cantilever construction techniques."

This method is slightly different from the technique that is being used by the yellow cranes, also known as trusses. Both methods use the cranes to lift large concrete segments into the air to create bridge spans between piers. The cranes weigh approximately 365 tons. Approximately 2,700 concrete segments are required for Phase 1 of the project. These are being made on the ground of Washington Dulles International Airport. Each one is delivered by a truck to the spot where it is to be used.

Construction across the Beltway will continue into Fall and will require overnight closings of northbound and southbound beltway lanes. When work is being done, a minimum of two lanes will be closed. At times, three lanes will be closed and the full closure of the inner and outer loops will be required at least four nights. All closings and detours will be announced well in advance.

The rail project includes inbound and outbound tunnels that will carry tracks from Route 123 to westbound Route 7. Mining of both of those tunnels was completed late last year beneath the Route 123/Route 7 intersection and the landmark water tower and defense tower. Crews now are waterproofing and installing concrete liners using concrete that is actually made the site at Route 123 and International Drive in the shadow of the Tysons Courtyard Marriott hotel.

In addition, the mile-long stretch of Route 7 from Route 123 to the Dulles Toll Road has been widened and lanes shifted as much as 60 feet to allow construction of aerial tracks and two stations in the median of the road. Mid-block left turns have been eliminated and many businesses have new access points. Throughout construction, access to all businesses has been maintained. Crews have relocated 21 different utilities in this area and put them underground. That means that the power poles that once lined this corridor are now gone.

At this point, construction is highly visible all along the 11.7-mile Phase 1 alignment from Falls Church to Reston. Aerial tracks also are being built along busy I-66 at the Dulles Connector Road where the new line will emerge with Metro's existing Orange Line. The tracks are primarily at grade from Tysons westward to Dulles. All five future Metrorail stations are under construction, four in Tysons and one on the eastern edge of Reston.

Phase 2 of the project will run from Reston westward to Loudoun, completing the 23-mile extension. Phase 1 will be completed in 2013. A completion date for Phase 2 has not been set.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority owns and manages the rail project. Dulles Transit Partners is the design-build contractor for Phase 1 construction. For general project information, visit www.dullesmetro.com. To sign up to receive electronic traffic alerts and monthly project updates, visit www.dullesmetro.com/info/signup.cfm. ■

Before You Dig

Homeowners should contact Miss Utility of Virginia by calling 811 or 1-800-552-7001 at least 3 working days (excluding weekends and legal holidays) before beginning any digging project. Some examples include: Landscaping, digging holes for fence posts or a mailbox, anchoring supports for decks or swings, removing tree roots, driving landscaping stakes into the ground and installing a retaining wall. For additional information regarding a home project and digging safely, please visit www.call811.com. ■

Avoid Repair Fraud for Jobs Big and Small

Sometimes after disasters, large or small such as may be brought about by a winter snow storm, people anxious to make their homes livable again may let their guard down and overlook the standard warning signs of a home repair scam. Using good judgment and taking the necessary precautions could save you money and frustration. Some important things to remember are listed below and additional information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/recover/avoidfraud.htm.

► **Make Sure the Contractor You Hire is Licensed** – For information about home improvement licenses contact the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/contractorlic.htm or by calling 703-222-0801.

► **Don't Let Payments Get Ahead of the Work** - Make a minimal deposit if a deposit is required, keep records of all of your payments and don't make the final payment until you are completely satisfied with the job.

► **Check the Contractor's Complaint History Records** – If a complaint was filed with Fairfax County check at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/complaint_history.htm or 703-222-8435; Virginia (if the previous work was completed in another jurisdiction) at www.dpor.state.va.us/regulantlookup/selection_input.cfm?CFID=3826077&CFTOKEN=20264690 or 804-367-8500; or the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org/us/Find-Business-Reviews/ or 703-276-0100.

► **Ask Friends and Neighbors for Contractor Referrals** – Ask the contractor to provide customer references of projects that have been completed that are similar to yours and contact the customer to find out about their experience and, if possible, inspect the work.

► **Make Sure the Contractor has Insurance** – Insurance should cover damage to your home or injury to employees working on your property. Obtain the name of the insurance carrier and the agent. Contact them to verify that the policy is in force and won't expire before your job is completed.

► **Insist on a Written Contract** – Make sure your written contract includes ALL agreements regarding the work to be done and materials to be used. A sample contract is available from the Virginia Board for Contractors at www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/consamp.pdf.

► **Request a Signed Mechanic's Lien Waiver** – To protect yourself from liability for unpaid bills to subcontractors and suppliers of materials, request that the contractor furnish you with a signed mechanic's lien waiver. Without a lien waiver if your contractor fails to pay a subcontractor or supplier, you could be responsible for the payments and those who worked on your home or provided material may place a lien against your property.

► **Make Sure Applicable Permits Are Obtained and Inspections are Completed** – Once you have selected a contractor verify that all necessary permits have been obtained and monitor to make sure that all work passes inspection. Additional information regarding required permits and the on-line system to check the status of permits is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/buildingpermits/.

► **Get Copies of Warranties for Materials and Workmanship** – Before you make a final payment, make sure you are satisfied with the job and get copies of your warranties for materials and workmanship. ▪

Donate Gently Used Medical Equipment

The Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment of Northern Virginia (FREE) is accepting donations of gently used medical equipment, including wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers and rollators. The Equipment will be given to people in need who do not have health insurance or cannot afford to purchase the equipment. FREE is a nonprofit organization that provides mobility-related equipment to enhance independence and improve quality of life. Donations are tax-deductible. Equipment must be brought to FREE's Fairfax location. Please contact Jill Clark at jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5874, TTY 711 for more information.

Other Donation Opportunities

The Fairfax County website provides a comprehensive list of items that may be donated or recycled including televisions, cell phones, computers, printers, bicycles, aluminum cans, and much more. Please visit the website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/new-mat.htm for this comprehensive list provided in alphabetical format or call 703-324-5230, TTY 711. ▪

Land Use Matters

► Tysons Corner Plan Implementation

The Board of Supervisors approved updates to the comprehensive land use plan and zoning ordinance for the Tysons Corner Planning Area in 2010. The plan envisions Tysons as home for up to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs by 2050. The plan has been designed to take advantage of the four new Metro stations coming to Tysons in 2013 with 75 percent of future growth occurring within a half mile of these new metro stations. For more details about the updated plan and zoning ordinance please visit the website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/.

Fairfax County will receive the Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan for its blueprint to transform Tysons Corner. The American Planning Association grants this prestigious award to only one urban plan in the nation each year for advancing the science and art of planning. Although he is often remembered as an author of the first master plan for Chicago, Burnham also shaped the McMillan Plan that created the National Mall and Union Station in Washington DC. For additional information about the award you may go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2011/updates/fairfax-county-receives-daniel-burham-award.htm

Nearly a dozen consolidated property owners/developers have expressed interest in submitting rezoning applications under the new Tysons plan. At the time of publication of this newsletter, four rezoning applications have been submitted to the county proposing development focused around the future Tysons Metro stations. To review the pending rezoning applications in Tysons Corner use the following link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/tysons-active-zoning-cases.htm

► Metro West/Vienna Metro Station Redevelopment Update

Pulte, the primary developer of the MetroWest mixed use project, is continuing site work and construction of infrastructure improvements that they started last year. The new Vaden Drive extended, connecting the Vienna Metro Station with Lee Highway, will be completed and opened prior to occupancy of the new homes. Completion of the entire project will take several years.

Pulte plans to start sales of the new townhomes in February or March of 2011 with construction starting the second quarter of 2011. Occupancy of the townhomes is anticipated during the last quarter of 2011. Construction of the two over two townhomes will start the third or fourth quarter of 2011. For information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4056975>

Reconstruction and upgrades to Saintsbury Drive and the Vienna Metro Station will begin in the spring of 2011. Pulte in coordination with WMATA will continue to keep the public informed about construction that may affect pedestrian and vehicular access to and from the south side of the Vienna Metro Station. Pulte and WMATA will be posting updates on site and on their websites to keep residents informed about changes to access.

► Merrifield Updates

A rezoning application was approved late last year (RZ 2009-PR-002) for an 11 story residential building fronting Dorr Avenue. The new high rise building will replace three low rise industrial warehouse buildings located at the end of Dorr Ave. One of the buildings previously was painted with an American flag and was visible from Prosperity Ave. and Rt. 66. The application also proffered a 3,000 sq. ft. building facing Prosperity Ave for community uses. For information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4120719>

The developers of three approved mixed use projects in the Providence District, including redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station by Mill Creek Residential, the DFS Long Merrifield Halstead mixed use project and the Merrifield Town Center (Mosaic at Merrifield), are all moving forward with construction of their respective projects.

- Development of the Dunn Loring Metro station is planned to break ground in the spring of this year. Last year, Mill Creek Residential finalized a lease with Harris Teeter for a 52,000 square foot grocery store on the ground floor of the new residential building. The development will also accommodate new bus bays, an improved kiss and ride configuration and a 2,000 space WMATA parking garage (replacing the existing 1355 surface parking spaces). During the phased construction of the project, 1,355 parking spaces will be maintained at the Dunn Loring station. For information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4066077>

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Land Use Matters continued from previous page

- The DFS Long project located south of the Dunn Loring Metro station started construction of the first of four buildings last year. The residential buildings will have ground floor retail. Two new roads serving the development will connect Gallows Road to Merrilee Drive to the west. For information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSmain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4087593>
- Edens & Avant, the developer of *Mosaic at Merrifield*, began construction of the Merrifield Town Center last year when they demolished the movie theater. They are constructing the first phase of the development that will include an urban two story Target, a boutique hotel and additional retail development fronting Lee Highway. The developer will realign and upgrade Eskridge Road to connect to Lee Highway to form a new intersection with Merrilee Drive.
- Concurrently, the County is working to complete the comprehensive planned connection of Eskridge Road to Williams Drive (and Route 50) to the south. This crucial connection will allow direct access to the Dunn Loring Metro Station without having to use Gallows Road or Prosperity Avenue. The developer per their proffer commitments are working with Fairfax County Schools to make improvements to Luther Jackson Middle School playing fields. The fields should be ready for use in September. For information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSmain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4086975>

► Nutley Street Road Improvements

The bank and pharmacy under construction across Nutley Street from the Pan Am Shopping Center will include long needed road safety improvements on Nutley Street. A new median has been constructed that will prevent south bound drivers from turning left into the first entrance of the Pan Am Shopping Center. Additionally a new traffic light has been installed on Nutley Street to manage access into and out of the new pharmacy/bank and the Pan Am Shopping Center. For information on development approvals use the following link: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSmain.aspx?cde=SE&seq=4090281>

If you have any questions please contact my Land Use Aide, Michael Wing, at 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ▪



Intersection of Routes 7 and 123, Photo taken by Samuel R. Pearson (1934).
Courtesy of the Fairfax County Public Library Photographic Archive. ▪

Tree Responsibility

The responsibility for a tree rests with the party who owns the tree and that is determined by who owns the property upon which the tree is growing. If tree limbs overhang property lines, the limbs may be removed to the point where they are vertical to the property line. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and utility companies handle trees that fall into the road or across utility wires. VDOT will come out to clear the fallen tree or any branches that have blocked roadways or compromised wires but is not responsible for removing the wood if the tree originated on private property.

Property owners may contact their insurance company for more specific information as each company has their own policy for dealing with trees. Fairfax County is responsible for tree maintenance or removal only if the tree originated from county owned property. However, the Fairfax County Urban Forester may be contacted if a tree located on private property is posing a danger to publically-owned areas such as streets and sidewalks. In these cases, County staff will take steps to require the tree owner to remove the hazard. If you are concerned about a hazardous tree situation, please consider the following options:

- If there is an immediate life-threatening tree hazard threatening or blocking a public road or sidewalk, call 911.
- If there is a tree fallen across utility lines, stay away and never attempt to approach or touch trees or limbs that contact power lines as they are extremely dangerous. Call the appropriate electrical company such as Dominion Power, 1-866-366-4375 or www.dom.com/storm-center/reporting-outages.jsp; or NOVEC 1-888-335-0500 or www.novec.com/Customer_Services/index.cfm.
- Trees adjacent to public roads and streets or trees that have fallen onto public streets or sidewalks, contact VDOT, 1-800-367-7623 (1-800-FOR-ROAD)
- On County parkland contact the Fairfax County Park Authority, 703-324-8594, TTY 703-324-3988.
- On other Fairfax County property or posing a hazard to Fairfax County owned property, contact the Urban Forest Management Division, 703-324-1770, TTY 703-324-1877.
- On Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) property, contact FCPS at 703-764-3500.
- On private property, removal is the property owner's responsibility. All refuse collection companies operating in Fairfax County must collect brush placed at their customer's curbsides as long as the brush is:
 - In bundles of less than 4 feet in length and less than 50 pounds;
 - No piece is larger than 6 inches in diameter.

If you suspect illegal tree removal or land clearing, contact the 24-hour hotline at 703-324-1937, TTY 711. The best time to call is when you first see signs of any suspicious activity. Be sure to provide a street address so inspectors know which property to investigate. ▀

Homeowner and Civic Association Contact Information

This office occasionally needs to provide information regarding matters of importance to officers and members of homeowner and civic associations. The means by which we send out these notifications is through email contact information provided by the associations. Unfortunately, when elections are held and officers change, we frequently do not receive the updated contact information which results in these notifications not getting to the associations. It would be greatly appreciated if you ensure that we have contact information for the officer(s) of each homeowner and civic association in the Providence District. Due to the difficulty encountered in maintaining email distribution lists, we do limit distribution to homeowner and association officers and request that they disseminate the information to the members as appropriate. Please send email contact information to Provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov. ▀

Transportation Matters

► Road Maintenance and Snow

Nearly all of our public roads in Providence and across Fairfax County are owned, maintained, and controlled by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). My office and County staff can assist citizens in obtaining results, but road issues are the responsibility of the Commonwealth. VDOT can be reached at its new around-the-clock call center at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) or via e-mail at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov.

Also, the General Assembly is presently in session. Now, would be an opportune time to express your views on the state of roads and road maintenance to the governor and members of the General Assembly. If you are unsure who represents you in the House of Delegates or State Senate, you can check with the following online resource: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>.

► HOT Lanes Update

According to a recent HOT Lanes press release, the project is 55 percent complete. What this means for most motorists in Providence is that bridgework over the Beltway will be finished by the end of 2011, which should end detours on our local routes. The project is scheduled to finish construction by December 21, 2012. More information, including traffic alerts, is available at <http://virginiahotlanes.com/>.

► Idylwood Road Bridge

The bridge is largely completed and crews have moved onto sidewalks, parapets, and surface grooving. A preliminary round of asphalt work, to be followed by a final asphalt treatment post-opening, is the next major milestone. Although the cold temperatures have slowed down the work somewhat, Fluor-Lane has publicly announced that the bridge is slated to open February 25.

► Gallows Road and Lee Highway

This project to improve the flow of traffic will run along Lee Highway from just west of Merrilee Drive to the Capital Beltway and along Gallows Road from Gatehouse Road to south of Prosperity Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011 and to finish by the end of 2012.

Arif Rahman, VDOT project manager, is available to answer questions by phone or e-mail. He can be reached at 703-383-2179 and MD.Rahman@VDOT.Virginia.gov. For background on this project, you can visit the project website at www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/lee_highway_and_gallows_road.asp.

► I-66 Paving

This federally funded VDOT project – including more than \$20 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding – running from the Capital Beltway to Route 50 will begin in spring of 2011 and is planned to be completed by the end of 2012. The work entails “full-depth patching,” as well as resurfacing with asphalt, and will require the closure of one lane from 9:00 p.m. and two lanes from 10:00 p.m. until 4:30 a.m. Susan Shaw, VDOT project manager, can be contacted with questions at susan.shaw@vdot.virginia.gov.

► Oakton Roundabout

Fairfax County is currently developing the design for a modern roundabout on Hunter Mill Road at Mystic Meadow Way and the Oakton Community Park. This project has been under development for some years, but changes to VDOT’s design standards required project engineers to sharpen their pencils. Now, the design work will be completed by the end of February 2011 and construction should be completed by spring 2013, with \$800,000 of funding coming from the Fairfax County Commercial and Industrial Real Property Tax for transportation projects.

This project offers many benefits for the community:

- a major first step toward implementation of the Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Plan,
- improved traffic flow,
- a sidewalk extension and pedestrian crossings, and
- a gateway from the downtown Oakton village area to its residential neighborhoods. ▪



School News

Patricia Reed, School Board Member
Providence District

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Happy New Year! Here is an update on a few items of interest.

Budget. On January 6, 2011, Superintendent Jack D. Dale presented to the School Board the FY 2012 Proposed Budget--and now the Board deliberations begin. We won't finalize the budget until late May. Here are some of my initial thoughts on the FY 2012 budget.

1) **We must attract and retain high quality teachers, our most critical resource.** FCPS starting teacher salaries have declined over the past two years. Additionally, FCPS now ranks fifth in the region in terms of mid-career teacher salaries and is next to last in maximum teacher salaries. If we can't provide competitive salaries, it will be more difficult to attract and retain experienced teachers. Also, it will be costly and disruptive to hire and train replacements.

In a recent work session, I requested that FCPS staff conduct an employee survey on current working conditions and morale. While my suggestion was voted down, two employee groups decided to poll teachers themselves and will soon bring their poll results to the Board along with their ideas and solutions for increasing teacher job satisfaction. While we may or may not be able to fund the first employee compensation increase in three years, we may be able to identify other "non-tangible" actions to improve morale, such as delaying new technology (or testing) initiatives.

2) **We must practice fiscal responsibility.** The Superintendent proposed an operating budget of \$2.2 billion with a projected enrollment of 177,416 students; this represents an *increase of 3.0 percent, or \$48.8 million*, in the county transfer of funds over the FY 2011 level. FY 2012 will be another year of tight budget constraints, as we will be losing federal stimulus dollars and facing funding "cliffs". I believe that we must practice *fiscal responsibility* and develop a realistic budget that assumes no increase from FY 2011 funding levels. To do so, the Board must make difficult funding decisions. Issues likely to be debated include expanding full-day kindergarten to the remaining 37 schools in FCPS, and providing compensation increases for employees.

I will continue to advocate for an independent School Board Auditor to identify and implement cost-saving recommendations. The Board of Supervisors utilizes an independent auditor and has realized significant savings as a result. For example: In FY 2008, audit recommendations to adjust the size of the County's vehicle fleet-- removing 11 vehicles and taking action to surplus 11 FASTRAN buses-- resulted in a savings of \$897,000 or 412 percent of the agency's FY 2008 expenditures of \$217,476.

3) **We must involve parents and all taxpayers throughout the budget development process.** Given that county taxpayers provide over 70 percent of the FCPS operating revenue, *all* citizens have a vested interest in the quality of our school system. As an advocate for increased public participation, transparency and accountability, I welcome input on the budget throughout the next few months. Please visit www.fcps.edu/news/fy2012.htm to learn about how you can get involved.

4) **Bus Parking and Fairfax City Obligation.** Over the past few months, I've been working with citizens concerned about the proposed siting of a school bus depot adjacent to Woodson High School. This week, FCPS withdrew the "2232" application for the bus parking compound at Woodson High School. This was done after the County transportation staff confirmed the findings of the schools' consultant that an increase in traffic during peak times would result in the County requiring improvements to the Pickett Road/Route 236 intersection. These improvements would raise the cost of this project beyond that which can be afforded by Fairfax City. FCPS staff will continue to work with Fairfax City to try to find alternative parking for the buses at Eleven Oaks, and have encouraged the city to hire a commercial real estate broker to help in the search.

The views expressed in this column are my personal views as your School Board member and may not reflect the perspective of the full Fairfax County School Board. I welcome your comments and concerns about FCPS business, however. Please send your messages to Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu. Please note that all correspondence is subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). ▀

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
8739 Lee Highway
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The Providence Report

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-656-4673

Adult Education	703-658-1201	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-830-1100	Child care	703-324-8100
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Circuit Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	804-497-7100	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4567
Human Services	703-222-0880	Library, Oakton	703-242-4020
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5514
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School Board	571-423-1075	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-7948
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up	703-324-5230
VDOT	703-383-8368	Voting Information	703-222-0776

Please call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711 for other county related information.
Copies of the 2007 Providence Resource Directory are available by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office and are also available on the Providence District Web site at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Prov_News.htm ▪



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.